The mission of the Randolph Mountain Club is to promote the enjoyment of the Randolph area through hiking, trail development and maintenance, upkeep of camps and shelters, and the sharing of the collective knowledge of its members.

RMC Trails Projects in 2021
by Bob Drescher and Benzo Harris

The RMC trail crew completed important work this year in support of our mission of trail maintenance and improvement. Though fewer in number due to Covid concerns, the crew was very productive, accomplishing much more than we expected. Field supervisor Sam Marshall’s outstanding leadership enabled the crew to get through training, patrols and complete funded projects on the Gulfside Trail and the Sylvan Way, and also assist with the fall airlift to Gray Knob.

Our Gulfside project was largely funded by a grant from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as well as the U.S. Forest Service. This year’s work was the first phase of a two-year effort to protect the fragile alpine vegetation, by constructing scree walls to clearly define the treadway and connecting two RMC trails to the Gulfside in a way that reduces hiker impact. (See diagram above.) Some of the best education and training available on alpine rigging (for moving and setting rocks) was provided by trailbuilder Jed Talbot of Off the Beaten Path, resulting in a confident crew that worked safely and efficiently.

Another key element in the success of this work was the new rigging gear provided by the National Park Service for us to use.

continued on page 9

Also in this issue:
New honorary members Paul & Michele Cormier .......... page 3
Summer event photos ..................................................... page 3
Volunteer work trips ....................................................... page 3

Solar Projects Completed at Gray Knob
by Jamie Maddock

Our June newsletter featured the story of the RMC’s solar project at Stearns Lodge, where we installed rooftop solar panels to electrify the Lodge and a new air-source heat pump for the caretaker’s quarters. Generous contributions were received from RMC’s members and friends, many made in memory of longtime RMC member and trails leader Mike Micucci. Awards from the Randolph Foundation and other grantmakers, as well as volunteer labor, brought the project to completion. The project’s overall budget was about sixty thousand dollars. This included funding for the project’s second phase up on the mountain at Gray Knob, which is now completed and operating.

Gray Knob has had a small array of solar panels for about twenty-five years, so the second phase of this year’s project was to upgrade it. Since the original installation, the technology of solar panels and batteries has improved greatly. The old system had not been meeting our power needs in the winter, and venting the old lead acid batteries made

continued on page 7

Top, Gray Knob now glows at night (R. Kamman photo); at right, solar battery readings on Jamie’s phone app.

New RMC Directors .................................................... page 4
Camps report, and meet the Caretakers ......................... page 6
Treasurer’s Report ....................................................... page 10
Greetings from your new president. 2021 has been a transition year for the RMC, on top of the other changes in the world around us, and in the long term this is a good thing and an occasion for some acknowledgments. The Annual Meeting was on Zoom this year and we had too little time to recognize those stepping down from leadership roles, including president Jamie Maddock, vice-president Kate Hudson and directors Dwight Bradley, Bob Drescher and Bev Jadis. Many thanks to those five, and in this newsletter you can read about the five new directors now stepping up.

One reason to be confident about transitions within club leadership is the strength of RMC volunteering, our ultimate renewable resource. This newsletter is full of stories about members who find purpose, satisfaction and fellowship in our work: in specialized volunteer roles, trail work trips, participation in search and rescue, technical assistance with construction projects, or custody of our facilities or club information systems. This is a goal even for the new RMC employee alumni association, whose leaders I met with in October. For them, it’s clear that finding the right volunteer role will help them sustain and grow their connection to a club and community where many had an important experience in their summer employment.

As you’ve been hearing since spring 2020, the sources of revenue that typically complement all this volunteer effort in club operations have been disrupted. The board has had to adapt in order to keep an even keel on the trails and camps, the core of our mission. Donations from members have helped close the gap, as has government aid intended for non-profit employers like us. This year again we’ve made use of a long-term resource, the Mt. Madison Fund (which receives bequests and memorial donations), to pay for capital repairs at Gray Knob. It was an appropriate use of this restricted fund, and a good idea to undertake construction at the camps while they were closed to overnight guests.

I’m glad to report that the camps are now open, with a new solar energy system operating at Gray Knob. As you’ve read in the past two newsletters, this was the second phase of the project that began with the spring 2021 solar panel installation at Stearns Lodge. It made use of our entire array of RMC resources, from volunteer time, donations and grants, construction and electrical skills, and knowledge about helicopter lifts. Meanwhile, the trail crew worked steadily through the summer and fall, making significant improvements on different trails in our network. Here too continuity remains important, since it’s the hiking public who depend on our camps and trails every day, all year round. Thanks for being part of the RMC as we continue to adapt and grow. If you’d like to be involved or contribute, I’d be happy to hear from you. See you soon in Randolph.

From the President …

Volunteer Work Trips in 2021

Volunteers play a major role in the maintenance of our trails and we want to thank everyone who came out this year. Last year Covid kept us from organizing volunteer trips, but the breach did not stop growing! This year twenty-nine volunteers came out, some working more than one day, for a total of 250.5 hours. This included twelve first-time volunteers. Two first-time volunteers made significant contributions. Tonya Ring was present for every scheduled workday and added a few of her own that helped reach our Sylvan Way match hours. Edward Clark worked on the Owl’s Head Trail, clearing blowdowns and brushing, and has offered to provide materials and labor for much-needed repairs on the trail’s lower section.

We had five scheduled trips in July and August, including two on the Spar Trail, two on The Link, and one on the Sylvan Way (an additional two trips were cancelled due to weather).

Continued on page 10

Randolph Mountain Club 2021-2022

Officers, Directors, committee chairs and honorary members

President Randy Meiklejohn, Brookline MA
Vice President John Pinney, Basking Ridge NJ
Treasurer Kathleen Kelley, Randolph NH
Secretary Joel Douglas, Andover MA

Other Directors: Tom Breunig, El Cerrito CA
Maryka Gillis, Providence RI
Chris Hawkins, Randolph NH
Carl Herz, North Conway NH
Ben Lieberson, Boston MA
Jenna Maddock, Boulder CO
Deva Stekete, Turner ME
Franklin Stone Wenk, Brooklyn NY
Ginny Umiker, Randolph NH
Wendy Walsh, Randolph NH
Howie Weynys, Randolph NH

Camps: Carl Herz

Social Events: Franklin Stone Wenk, Ginny Umiker
Merchandise: Michele Cormier
Planned Giving: Randy Meiklejohn
Membership: Michele Cormier
Work Trips: Wendy Walsh
Newsletter: Randy Meiklejohn
Webmaster: Jenna Maddock
Archivist: Al Hudson
Historian: Judy Hudson
Cartographer: Jon Hall

Honorary members: Bill & Barbara Arnold
Al & Judy Hudson
Edith Tucker

New Honorary Members Paul and Michele Cormier
by Randy Meiklejohn

At the 2021 Annual Meeting in August, RMC members voted unanimously to make Michele and Paul Cormier honorary members of the club, as provided for in the bylaws. In part this was in recognition of Paul’s 2021 retirement from years of volunteer work in maintenance and improvements at Steams Lodge, continuously since its construction in 2007. Michele has been RMC President and Treasurer and she continues to be responsible for the club’s membership and stewardship functions. At right, Paul and Michele pause for a selfie during a recent bike ride up Evans Notch.

Randolph Mountain Club is a diverse organization, committed to equal opportunity in employment and program delivery. The RMC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military status, veteran status, income level, political affiliation and familial status.

www.randolphmountainclub.org
Instagram: @randolphmountainclub

The Randolph Mountain Club’s 2021-2022 Newsletter

December 2021

page 2

New Honorary Members Paul and Michele Cormier
by Randy Meiklejohn

Randolph Mountain Club is a diverse organization, committed to equal opportunity in employment and program delivery. The RMC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military status, veteran status, income level, political affiliation and familial status.

www.randolphmountainclub.org
Instagram: @randolphmountainclub

The Randolph Mountain Club’s 2021-2022 Newsletter

December 2021

page 3
New RMC Directors

Joel Douglas was introduced to Randolph by his future wife Margaret Cutter Douglas in the early 1990s. They were married in Randolph in 1993, and have been enjoying summers there with their children, Ben and Emily, hiking and spending time with the abundance (a possible future Valley charter word) of Cutters. Joel is working on his RMC 100, and enjoys discovering the less-traveled trails. He learned about proper hiking attire on his first trip up the Ammonoosuc Ravine with his father-in-law, Louis Cutter, when, on a beautiful summer day, they had to turn back as the weather turned bad. Joel has previous board experience at both the nonprofit and corporate levels, both with his temple and with the national-security technology company he helped to found in 2011. Joel and Margaret live in Andover, MA, which is just close enough to get up to Randolph for a quick hike on those all-too-infrequent free weekends.

Jenna Maddock grew up coming to Randolph for the summer months, acting in charades for the Valley, guzzling punch at the 4th of July Tea, and romping along on many a Tuesday and Thursday hike. She continued to spend summers in the mountains as she got older, growing from being entranced up Dome Rock by Life Savers to running the Presidential Traverse and hiking The Link from end to end (because why not?). With family, she also occasionally helped out as a fill-in caretaker at Crag Camp and Gray Knob. In 2011, she officially worked her first of several seasons in the Whites as Hut Croo for the AMC. In 2018, while transitioning back to the US after three years in Japan, she started taking over RMC webmaster duties and has been volunteering to maintain and streamline the club’s digital presence and resources since then. She currently works in Colorado as a software engineer, but returns to visit the Whites at least once a year.

Deva Steketee came to the RMC trail crew fresh from high school in 2009. Trail work was always going to be just a summer job... until one day it wasn’t. After three summers on the crew, and two as Field Supervisor, Deva graduated from Harvard College with a degree in French Literature and moved to Jackson, Wyoming for a trails position at Grand Teton National Park. Despite wide open skies, clear cold lakes, and endless tracts of public land, she never quite shook the magnetism of home and the White Mountains. In 2019, Deva moved back east permanently and took a position working for OBP Trailworks, a professional trail design and building company based in Turner, Maine. In the winters she enjoys time off and works as a college basketball referee throughout New England. She visits Randolph frequently and is excited to get involved again and to help keep RMC trails looking their best.

Ginny Umiker has deep roots in Randolph, because both of her parents (Hank and Pecko Folsom) came from families in the community. Her mother’s great-grandfather was William Peek, an early pathmaker. The Lion Head Trail on Mt. Washington was built in memory of William Richards, her great-grandfather on the Folsom side. Ginny grew up_summering on the Hill, spending idyllic days picking blueberries, hiking, swimming in the Ravine House pool and participating in RMC events. She married Rick Umiker in the Randolph Church, where her parents had married a generation ago. Ginny and Rick recently retired to Randolph after forty-plus years at St. Mark’s School in Massachusetts. She managed the campus bookstore and he taught math. They now reside in the Peek family house on Durand Rd. Their three children enjoy visits to Randolph, and Ginny can’t wait to see her three grandchildren in the Valley charade!

Howie Wemys grew up on the coast of Maine while spending winter weekends in the White Mountains. After college and a stint in the Army, he moved to the mountains in the early 90’s and played ski bum, patrolling at Wildcat while driving stages on the Mt. Washington Auto Road in the summer. In 1987 he settled down to full-time employment managing the Mt. Washington Auto Road, and in 1995 was offered the responsibility of running Great Glen Trails, the company’s recreational branch. In 2000, Howie married his wife Celebration Howie. In celebration of his 50th birthday he completed the Presidential Traverse (also cal,. “Hut Traverse” in 22 hours. He retired in 2020 but remains active with the Mt. Washington Observa- tory, Mount Washington Commission and the Glen House Hotel. His daughter Cory and grandchildren live nearby in Fryeburg. Howie and Sue have lived in Randolph along the Short Circuit since 2003.

Volunteer Profile and Golder Lappers Award

This Profile recognizes outstanding RMC trail volunteers Amy Patenaude, Bria Clark and Danielle Normand, and I’m pleased to announce that Amy and Danielle are also this year’s recipients of the coveted Golden Lappers Award. They have been regular volunteers since 2017. Amy’s first outing was helping after the October storm clean up that year. 2021 was Bria’s first year volunteering on some ambitious trails. Danielle and Amy led two work trips on the Link in July, when Bria, an experienced trail maintainer, joined them. Below, Amy describes one of the trips. For information about the other one, see the article Amy wrote for the Weir Times about volunteering and redlining, weirs.com/the-link-volunteering-redlining/.

July 22nd trip: We had another successful workday on The Link. Started up Lowe’s Path, The Link to the Castle Ravine Trail crossing of Castle Brook. We brushed The Link up towards the Castle Trail. We brushed the thick trail and it was extremely satisfying to open it up. We cleared up to elevation 3,550. A hiker that did a loop beginning from Madison Hut descended The Link! We were so surprised to see someone on the trail. We brushed the trail and made the work done so we could get back on the trail before our turnaround time. Emerald Bluff was wonderful and filled our eyes with the beauty of Castle Ravine and the Ridge and beyond of the Brilliant and Tuckerman Mountain. We made it back to our cars at Lowe’s at 3:40. Of course it rained on us when we went to Lower Falls to swim! A wonderful day.

We asked our three volunteers about their connections to the RMC and why they enjoy volunteering:

Danielle: I found my way to Randolph through hiking the forty-eight 4,000-footers. Then once I started to look into redlining, I found the area awesome! I had looked into volunteering, as I needed some trail work hours for the Trailwrights list. When I had the hours I needed for the list, I continued to volunteer because I enjoy each outing I go on! Such a gem of a place to be.

Amy: I finished redlining the AMC White Mountain Guide in 2015 (and yes, I redlined the RMC trails along the way), and I completed the NH 500 Highest list in 2017. Sometimes in between I volunteered with BRATTS—Belknap Range Trail Tenders, I tagged along friends that did trail work in the Belknap Range during the few days the BRATTS are also Trailwrights and they got me interested in becoming a Trailwright and tackling the Trailwright 72 Summits Club which requires hiking, bushwhacking and working on trails. Thanks to Danielle’s recommendation, trail work with the RMC was good fun. In 2018, I became the 36th person to become a member of the 72 Summits Club. I like trail work with the RMC so much that I don’t plan on stopping.

Bria: I had heard about the RMC through my husband as well as through Amy and Danielle. The girls invited me to do some work this summer, and I was happy to help. I also work with the BRATTS in the Belknap range maintaining a couple of trails in that area (Anna and Goat Pasture Hill), so I am not stranger to a day of work in the woods. I actually met my husband through that group!

What do you enjoy most about helping to maintain the trails?

Danielle: I like being able to maintain the trails as I see other trail systems and just know how hard the RMC works at keeping the trails cleared and in good condition. I always tell people about how fun the outings are and how everyone is very nice. Like when can you say “hey I painted that blaze” or “I helped put in that bog bridge” or even the “wow this used to be a carwash!”

Amy: I like being, outdoor and caring for the trails myself for others and yourself; and like being part of the tradit- ion of hikers volunteering together.

Bria: I love the feeling of accomplishment after a day of work, and knowing that anyone who hikes the trail will be able to easily navigate and enjoy it for years if they so choose. I hadn’t recognized the importance of water mitigation until I began to work with the BRATTS, and now I always find myself trying to keep water off the trail when possible when a water bar is clearly clogged or failing.

What are your favorite White Mountain hikes?

Danielle: I am not sure I have a favorite hike in the Whites... I like so many different areas it is hard to choose. I enjoy the RMC land, the Shelburne area and Evans Notch.

Amy: I know this is corny but the hike I am doing is my favorite. I want to take the paths that are less traveled and the Randolph paths offer many options to reach lovely places and peaks where it is almost guaranteed not to be crowded.

Bria: As a favorite WM hikes, I am not sure I have one! Although I am very partial to the Mt. Tecumseh trail.
Meet the fall and winter Camp Caretakers
... in their own words ...

Benji Getraer: I grew up in Highland Park, NJ, but have been coming up to the Whites since I was a kid, where climbing Chocorua and Washington became a yearly tradition. After getting involved with the AMC volunteer teen trail crews, I worked for a season as a teen trail crew leader with the AMC’s NY/NJ trails program. Memorable White Mountain treks have often involved my twin brother Alec, including hiking the New Hampshire AT section in high school, a full moon overnight Press traverse in college, and most recently, the Hut to Hut traverse in cold rainy fog. I first became familiar with the RMC after a late Fall trip to Crag Camp, and am now returning for my second season, after Winter caretaking in 2019-2020. I received my B.A. in Geosciences in 2019, and since graduating have worked for the US Forest Service as Wilderness Ranger in Idaho and Colorado. I plan to return to school to pursue a Ph.D in climate science.

Hello! I’m Jim Baum from Mount Airy, NC, back for my third season as an RMC Caretaker. In the spring and summer, I am a Ridgerunner for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Most recently I’ve worked in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area (in southwestern Virginia), the home of the Grayson Highlands wild ponies. I’m looking forward to another winter at Gray Knob, and I feel very fortunate to spend that time working for the Randolph Mountain Club.

Hauling his behind up the Hincks Trail after a three-year hiatus, caretaker Rowan Kamman is back for the fall and winter seasons at Gray Knob. A Green Mountainer by birth, he has often spent intervals of time in the neighboring Whites to help rebalance his humours. Familiar with the the RMC from summer ’16 trail crew and fall ’18 caretaking, Rowan looks forward to eking out a little more time at the finest mountain shelter in the northeast. An avid trail runner, he looks forward to the ankle-strengthening joys of rock-hop ping, at least until the snow comes. Once the perils of autumn snow-covered-trails are buried beneath a solid snowpack, you might find him on skis doing laps around Durand Lake or in the Crescent Ridge glades. Lastly, here’s Rowan’s tip for staying warm during a winter stay at Gray Knob: “just velcro yourself to the side of the woodstove.” He’ll be there too, strapped to the other side of the stove and trying to read a book.

Camps Report
by Carl Herz

I am pleased to announce that all RMC camps are now open again. The Camps committee originally planned an August reopening of Gray Knob and Crag Camp, but the rise of the Delta variant of Covid-19 delayed those arrangements. We opted for a soft open in late September, unannounced, to allow our caretakers to transition into welcoming guests indoors again, and we then announced the reopening October 4th. For the time being, our capacity is reduced; fifteen at Crag Camp and ten at Gray Knob. The cabins were also added, funded by a grant from the NH Recreational Trails Program and volunteers. The Sylvan Way saw sixteen bog bridges replaced and several rock structures added, funded by a grant from the NH Recreational Trails Program and volunteers.

Top right, the new view opened up this fall along the Four Soldiers Path, less than 100 yards west of the Crescent Ridge Trail junction, and there’s also a new bench from which to enjoy the view. Bob Drescher photo. Above: Bog bridges being replaced on the Sylvan Way, Thunderstorm Junction, with new scree walls flanking the trails, the rebuilt large cairn, and rigging for rock-flying. Sam Marshall photos. Right, Reuben Morris, Justin Taylor with Winry, and Matt Reboli, the 2021 fall crew. Bob Drescher photo.

Top right, the new view opened up this fall along the Four Soldiers Path, less than 100 yards west of the Crescent Ridge Trail junction, and there’s also a new bench from which to enjoy the view. Bob Drescher photo. Above: Bog bridges being replaced on the Sylvan Way, Thunderstorm Junction, with new scree walls flanking the trails, the rebuilt large cairn, and rigging for rock-flying. Sam Marshall photos. Right, Reuben Morris, Justin Taylor with Winry, and Matt Reboli, the 2021 fall crew. Bob Drescher photo.

The annual fall airlift to Gray Knob was again orchestrated by director Chris Hawkins. This year the operation was quite busy, with an extra half ton of wood fuel for Gray Knob and all the materials needed for projects at the camps. Fortunately, we were able to fly a little early and had the help of the summer trail crew to assist on the mountain. Carpenter John Tremblay and Camps committee member Adam Ritchie worked diligently on outhouse foundations, replacing windows at Gray Knob and deck railings at Crag Camp. The new solar project at Gray Knob was the biggest push, as detailed by Jamie Maddock. The most readily evident change is that for the first time in history, an RMC shelter has pull chain lights!
A Run-In With a Friend Along the Trail
by Carl Herz

When my brother Alex comes to visit we always try to make the most of it, and this June was no exception. For a nice relaxing day I recommended an ascent of the Great Gully, and the next morning we hit the trail. As we crossed the talus field of King Ravine, I pointed out Crag Camp, locked up and closed at the time. We picked our way up the headwall, and at Thunderstorm Junction we checked the time and decided on a Spur Trail descent. Just below treeline along the trail, we ran into my friend Guy Jubinville and his companion Gary. Guy was sitting on a ledge in the middle of the trail, chatting on the phone. He quickly said: “Carl’s here - I gotta go” and hung up, and after we greeted one another his next words were “I can’t stand up”. A quick assessment indicated that Guy had severely injured his knee. The irony is that Guy and I are both on Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue (AVSAR) and had previously worked together at the summit of Mt. Washington, where we also assisted in rescues. We knew Guy’s knee injury meant a long carry out. The situation was serendipitous, since I was one of the only individuals who had the keys to the locked camps where the SAR cache is, in addition to a personal radio with the RMC and AVSAR channels. I gave Guy the mylar bivy from my first aid kit and raced down to Gray Knob with my brother, where we assembled gear, grabbed the litter, and called the valley on the radio. On the way back up, I heard that the RMC trail crew was now heading up, making good time up the Amphibraich as they passed the Monnoway. We arrived back at the scene and flagged down two hikers who agreed to help us evacuate, and I carefully loaded Guy into the litter and secured him.

Progress was painfully slow. Typically, there are six on a litter, and teams are changed out every five or ten minutes, but we started with only the five of us. In addition, the Spur Trail is very steep, narrow, and rocky, and it was a damp day. We made it to just below Knight’s Castle when the SAR cache is, in addition to a personal radio with the RMC and AVSAR channels. I gave Guy the mylar bivy from my first aid kit and raced down to Gray Knob with my brother, where we assembled gear, grabbed the litter, and called the valley on the radio. On the way back up, I heard that the RMC trail crew was now heading up, making good time up the Amphibraich as they passed the Monnoway. We arrived back at the scene and flagged down two hikers who agreed to help us evacuate, and I carefully loaded Guy into the litter and secured him.

As my stew simmered, I stood by the stove watching it with a hollow, premonitory expression. It exorted a gravitational pull, hard to resist by any bipedal sentient mammal who’d just spend the day out and about and now occupied Gray Knob. This stew was not long for the world. Just then, the caretaker phone rang, and “BARBARA ARNOLD” displayed on the screen. Now that Bill has retired from evening radio, we have Barbara Arnold, a good addition to the SAR kit.) We eventually echo-located our hikers maybe thirty feet off trail. After finding a way in below some cliff bands, we climbed back up to find them. Neighbors in the valley reported quite the light show in the Gully during all this.

Great Gully Light Show, cont’d.

If nothing else, these hikers had picked a gorgeous early-fall night to get lost. A bit of adrenaline got me up to Thunderstorm Junction right on time to meet my two co-rescuers - but they weren’t there. I sat down on the curb and turned off my light to watch the stars and wait. Soon enough, two incoming headlamps appeared, then went up and over Adams summit. Eventually my AMC partners arrived, in good spirits and ready to head down the Great Gully.

We made slow progress, stopping frequently to scan with our headlamps and yell for the lost hikers. Bantering all the while, we had a great dynamic between the three of us. Finally, a distant yell! Just in time, as my voice was getting hoarse. (Perhaps a shofar would be a good addition to the SAR kit.) We eventually echoed our hikers maybe thirty feet off trail. After finding a way in below some cliff bands, we climbed back up to find them. Neighbors in the valley reported quite the light show in the Gully during all this.

Though cold and a bit sheepish, the two hikers were happy to see us. They were especially jazzed about the hot chocolate brought by the Madison folks. I passed out the spare headlamps and we headed up and out. Progress was slow since the hikers were exhausted from their adventure, but we three rescuers made sure to keep a positive attitude and not make the hikers feel guilty. Arriving back at Thunderstorm Junction, I waved goodbye to the group as they headed back to Madison Spring Hut. Those hikers got a pretty good deal, not having to pay the fee to stay the night! I ambled back down to Gray Knob, feeling properly tired now. Before dropping into bed at 12:45 AM, I heeled to the stew pot for a second dinner.
The first three quarters of 2021 have followed both the capital and operating budgets approved by the board. Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and committee planning, the capital solar projects at Steams Lodge and at Gray Knob came in under the budget. In a separate capital project, the board had authorized spending from the Mt. Madison Fund for repairs at Gray Knob and its outhouse, and we expect a few more expenses for that project to be submitted before the end of the year. In our report to members in early 2022, we will share the full costs of both projects and the board-restricted and/or reserve funds used.

The board approved a full opening of the camps, as reported in the Camps article in this newsletter. During the time the two main camps were closed, visitors discovered and enjoyed the Perch and Log Cabin in more significant numbers than in past years. For now, Gray Knob and Crag Camp have temporarily lower overnight capacity limits, and this results in lower-than-normal camp revenue, but we see positive trends. Trail grant reimbursement requests have been completed but have yet to be received; therefore, the Accounts Receivable balance is higher than usual.

During the year, generous donors made it possible to keep the club operating as usual with caretakers at the camps 24/7, an entire separate capital project, the board had authorized spending from the Mt. Madison Fund for repairs at Gray Knob and its outhouse, and we expect a few more expenses for that project to be submitted before the end of the year. In our report to members in early 2022, we will share the full costs of both projects and the board-restricted and/or reserve funds used.

The board approved a full opening of the camps, as reported in the Camps article in this newsletter. During the time the two main camps were closed, visitors discovered and enjoyed the Perch and Log Cabin in more significant numbers than in past years. For now, Gray Knob and Crag Camp have temporarily lower overnight capacity limits, and this results in lower-than-normal camp revenue, but we see positive trends. Trail grant reimbursement requests have been completed but have yet to be received; therefore, the Accounts Receivable balance is higher than usual.

During the year, generous donors made it possible to keep the club operating as usual with caretakers at the camps 24/7, an entire separate capital project, the board had authorized spending from the Mt. Madison Fund for repairs at Gray Knob and its outhouse, and we expect a few more expenses for that project to be submitted before the end of the year. In our report to members in early 2022, we will share the full costs of both projects and the board-restricted and/or reserve funds used.

The board approved a full opening of the camps, as reported in the Camps article in this newsletter. During the time the two main camps were closed, visitors discovered and enjoyed the Perch and Log Cabin in more significant numbers than in past years. For now, Gray Knob and Crag Camp have temporarily lower overnight capacity limits, and this results in lower-than-normal camp revenue, but we see positive trends. Trail grant reimbursement requests have been completed but have yet to be received; therefore, the Accounts Receivable balance is higher than usual.

During the year, generous donors made it possible to keep the club operating as usual with caretakers at the camps 24/7, an entire separate capital project, the board had authorized spending from the Mt. Madison Fund for repairs at Gray Knob and its outhouse, and we expect a few more expenses for that project to be submitted before the end of the year. In our report to members in early 2022, we will share the full costs of both projects and the board-restricted and/or reserve funds used.

The board approved a full opening of the camps, as reported in the Camps article in this newsletter. During the time the two main camps were closed, visitors discovered and enjoyed the Perch and Log Cabin in more significant numbers than in past years. For now, Gray Knob and Crag Camp have temporarily lower overnight capacity limits, and this results in lower-than-normal camp revenue, but we see positive trends. Trail grant reimbursement requests have been completed but have yet to be received; therefore, the Accounts Receivable balance is higher than usual.

During the year, generous donors made it possible to keep the club operating as usual with caretakers at the camps 24/7, an entire separate capital project, the board had authorized spending from the Mt. Madison Fund for repairs at Gray Knob and its outhouse, and we expect a few more expenses for that project to be submitted before the end of the year. In our report to members in early 2022, we will share the full costs of both projects and the board-restricted and/or reserve funds used.

The board approved a full opening of the camps, as reported in the Camps article in this newsletter. During the time the two main camps were closed, visitors discovered and enjoyed the Perch and Log Cabin in more significant numbers than in past years. For now, Gray Knob and Crag Camp have temporarily lower overnight capacity limits, and this results in lower-than-normal camp revenue, but we see positive trends. Trail grant reimbursement requests have been completed but have yet to be received; therefore, the Accounts Receivable balance is higher than usual.

During the year, generous donors made it possible to keep the club operating as usual with caretakers at the camps 24/7, an entire separate capital project, the board had authorized spending from the Mt. Madison Fund for repairs at Gray Knob and its outhouse, and we expect a few more expenses for that project to be submitted before the end of the year. In our report to members in early 2022, we will share the full costs of both projects and the board-restricted and/or reserve funds used.
RMC Alumni “Homecoming”  
by Jenny Baxter

The last couple years have left many of us taking stock in the importance of the communities that matter most to us. For folks who have had the privilege of wearing the hat of trail crew member or caretaker over the years, the RMC community is especially dear and has been a key part in making us the varied and capable folks we are today. Thus, it always feels like a homecoming when two or more RMC employee alumni are able to assemble in the same place. We were afforded the treat of having a baker’s dozen or so of us gather in Jefferson this October, after many had spent the morning of the 23rd at the Randolph Ramble. We shared stories, food, drink, and the next morning a few of us logged some volunteer hours for the club brushing the Kelton Trail.

RMC alums, if you’d like to hear about upcoming events, opportunities to lend a hand, and a chance to reconnect and swap old RMC stories from your era, drop us a note, at randolphmountainclubalumni@gmail.com.

Gray Knob and Crag Camp were closed for over a year in 2020 and 2021. Reflecting on the time gladly spent on the mountain and at the camps, it is not lost on us that for many, visiting the cabins feels like going home. We are glad the camps are now open again, and hopeful this will be the year that things finally get back to normal in the mountains.